

WISCONSIN PARENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM (WPCP/Statewide)

WPCP Facts and Figures for 2016-2017 As of October 2016

In September 2016, there were 121 private schools participating in the WPCP, with a total enrollment of 3,061 students or 2,992.7 full-time equivalent (FTE) in the program.* In the 2016-17 school year, the WPCP state aid for a student enrolled full-time in the WPCP in grade kindergarten through eight is \$7,323 and \$7,969 for a student enrolled full-time in grade nine through twelve. The program is estimated to cost \$22.6 million in 2016-17.

Act 55 (Wisconsin 2015-17 Biennial Budget) changed the manner in which the WPCP is funded. Students that participated in the program prior to the 2015-16 school year will continue to be fully funded from state general purpose revenue. Pupils who begin attending a private school under the WPCP in the 2015-16 school year and thereafter are referred to as “incoming pupils.” All choice pupils participating in the WPCP must identify their resident public school district (the public school district where they reside on the 3rd Friday in September). Wisconsin public school districts will have their state general aid reduced by an amount equal to the amount paid by the state to participating private schools attributable to the incoming pupils residing in the district.

If the resident public school district does not receive an equalization aid payment sufficient to cover the incoming choice pupil aid reduction, the balance would be reduced from other state aid received by the district. Incoming pupils in the WPCP are included in their resident public school district’s membership for state general aid purposes in the following year. Districts may not levy to backfill the aid reduction. School districts receive a non-recurring revenue limit exemption equal to the number of FTE choice students multiplied by the current year revenue limit per student. For the 2016-17 school year, no more than 1% of pupils residing in a public school district may participate in the WPCP. There were 3,853 students eligible to be included in the statutorily required random drawing conducted by the department in July for districts with more applications than the 1% limit or for schools with more applicants than seats available. There were 519 students remaining on the waiting lists and 273 students who chose not to participate in the program. The department is required to fill a seat from a district’s waiting list if a choice student leaves a school and the choice enrollment falls below the 1% limit.

Table 1 shows the WPCP enrollment by grade level for the 3rd Friday in September 2016 count date. The number of students listed in the table is reported by headcount and FTE. For example, a four-year-old kindergarten student may be counted as 0.5 or 0.6 FTE.

TABLE 1
WPCP 2016-2017 Enrollment by Grade Level*

<u>Grade Level</u>	3rd Friday in September 2016	
	<u>Headcount</u>	<u>FTE</u>
4 Year-Old Kindergarten	127	65.2
5 Year-Old Kindergarten	253	246.5
1st Grade	302	302.0
2nd Grade	236	236.0
3rd Grade	216	216.0
4th Grade	224	224.0
5th Grade	228	228.0
6th Grade	215	215.0
7th Grade	205	205.0
8th Grade	185	185.0
9th Grade	299	299.0
10th Grade	221	221.0
11th Grade	198	198.0
12th Grade	152	152.0
Totals	3,061	2,992.7

*These are unaudited numbers and are subject to change.

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Table 2 provides the total number of students in the WPCP by where (and if) they were enrolled in school in 2015-16.

TABLE 2
2016-17 WPCP Students' Prior Year Enrollments*

2015-2016 Enrollment	3rd Friday in September 2016			
	Headcount**	% of Headcount	FTE	% of FTE
Wisconsin Private School	2,606	85.14%	2,579.2	86.18%
Wisconsin Public School	276	9.02%	274.5	9.17%
No School	120	3.92%	80.5	2.69%
Homeschooled	56	1.83%	56.0	1.87%
Out of State	3	0.10%	2.5	0.08%
Totals	3,061	100%	2,992.7	100%

* These are unaudited numbers as of October 2016 and are subject to change.

** Of the 2,606 students enrolled in private school in 2015-16, 2,234 (2,234.0 FTE) participated in the WPCP.